

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 11 and 17. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) A sled module for a mass storage device comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a circuit board mounted to a portion of the housing, the circuit board having an end mounted signal connector;
 - a mass storage device having an enclosure and a signal connector; and
 - spacers positioning the mass storage device within the housing at a position juxtaposed with respect to the circuit board such that the signal connector on the circuit board and the signal connector on the mass storage device are aligned with one another, the spacers thus permitting the sled module to mate directly with mass storage devices having signal connectors with different positional configurations.
2. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 additionally comprising:
 - a cover, wherein the cover has a hole for allowing the mass storage device to protrude through the cover when in its mounted position.
3. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 wherein the mass storage device has a data interface port and a power supply port and the circuit board has a data interface connector and a power supply connector.
4. (Previously Presented) The sled module of claim 3 wherein the spacers position the mass storage device such that the data interface and power supply ports on the mass storage device mate with data interface and power supply connectors on the circuit board.
5. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 wherein the mass storage device is a hard disk drive.

6. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 wherein the mass storage device is selected from the group consisting of CD-ROM drive, DVD drive, or digital tape drive.
7. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 wherein the spacers are made of plastic.
8. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 wherein the spacers are made of rubber.
9. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 wherein the spacers are made of a flexible material.
10. (Original) The sled module of claim 1 wherein the spacers are made of a compressible material.
11. (Currently Amended) A method for mounting a mass storage device having an enclosure and a signal connector comprising:
 - providing a sled module comprising a housing, a circuit board mounted to a portion of the housing, the circuit board having an end mounted signal connector;
 - positioning spacers within the housing such that the mass storage device, when inserted into the housing, is positioned with respect to the circuit board such that the signal connector on the circuit board and the signal connector on the mass storage device are aligned with one another, the spacers thus permitting the sled module to mate directly with mass storage devices having control signal connectors with different positional configurations; and
 - inserting the mass storage device within the housing.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the mass storage device is a hard disk drive.
13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the spacers are made of plastic.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the spacers are made of rubber.
15. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the spacers are made of a flexible material.
16. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the spacers are made of a compressible material.
17. (Currently Amended) A sled module ~~adapted to be fit into a tray~~, comprising:
 - a circuit board, mounted within the sled module in a rear portion thereof, the circuit board providing a rear connector for power and data signals to and from a backplane of the tray, and the circuit board also providing a front mounted connector for storage device signals;
 - a mass storage device, positioned in a front portion of the tray, the mass storage device having a rear mounted connector for storage device signals, the rear mounted connector located in a position on a rear face of the mass storage device;
 - support rails, located in a front portion of the tray, for mounting the mass storage device to the tray; and
 - at least one spacer, disposed between the mass storage device and at least one of the support rails, the spacer having a thickness chosen according to a position of the rear mounted connector on the mass storage device,
so that the front connector on the circuit board mates directly to the rear connector on the mass storage device, and so that a different mass storage device having a rear mounted connector in a different position can be mounted in the same sled module by using a spacer with a different thickness.
18. (Previously Presented) A sled module as in claim 17 wherein the storage device signals comprise data signals.
19. (Previously Presented) A sled module as in claim 17 wherein the storage device signals comprise power signals.